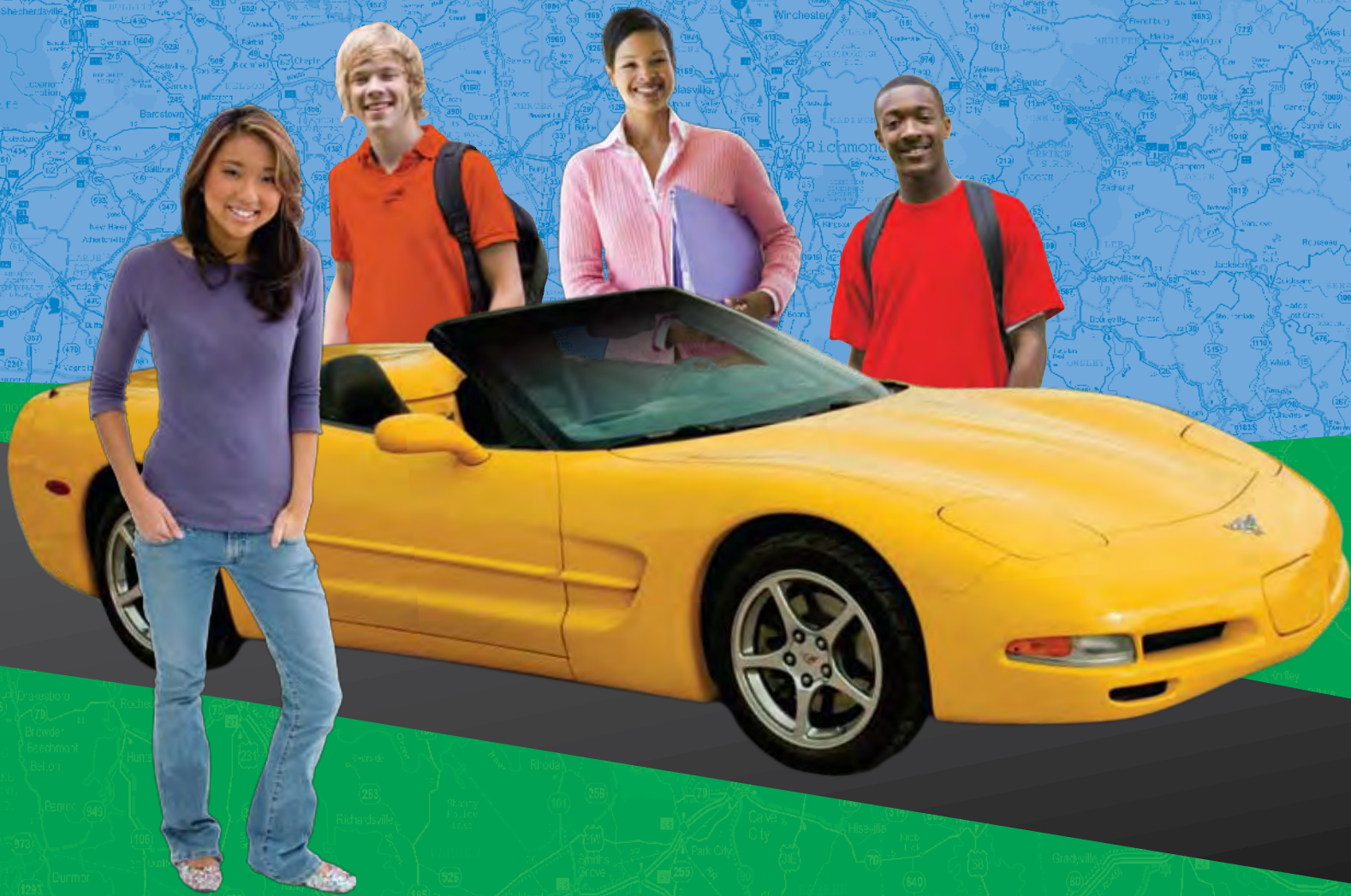


THE COLLEGE CIRCUIT

AN OWNER'S MANUAL TO HIGHER EDUCATION



Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

CARS COME WITH MANUALS.

WHY NOT YOUR FUTURE?

Your car is kind of like your future. If you don't handle it right, you'll get left behind and end up wasting money. Of course, with a car you can always get a new one. Not so your future.

That's why this Owner's Manual was put together by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), an agency that makes college more accessible to Kentuckians like you.

It will help you figure out:

- Your options for going to college
- The rules of the road for getting in
- How to maneuver your future and steer your finances in the right direction

So take the time to read through this Owner's Manual before setting off. You'll get where you want to go. And you just might save some money.

Remember, always wear your seat belt. And enjoy the ride.



PG. 4-11

Navigation System

What's your destination?

Technical data - your financial aid glossary

The search is on

Moving forward

Classes to careers

The road to college checklist

Standard features and capabilities

All current models come pre-installed with the following parts. Care and maintenance are required to guarantee performance through four years of college.

- 1 Brain: Useful for getting into college and finding a way to pay for it
- 2 Books: Frequent use of these can make earning scholarships easier
- 3 Feet: Prevent overuse with smart planning and online research
- 4 Bag: Holds textbooks, college aid guides and the phone number, e-mail and IM addresses of the cute girl you met while scouting out colleges



PG. 12-19

Financial Tune-Up

Rev up your revenue

Put the brakes on debt

Predatory lending traps

You're the driver

Add up your monthly expenses

PG. 20-31

Student Aid Toolbox

Loaded with options

Anybody seen my KEES?

Federal aid options

Federal aid program chart

The nuts and bolts of borrowing

Financial aid application process

The top 10 tips for getting college aid

PG. 32-34

Online Garage

Get in the fast lane with GoHigherKY.org

Where to go for more financial aid information

WHAT'S YOUR DESTINATION?

I'll scream if you ask me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Everybody asks you that for two reasons:

1. They don't know what else to talk about, and
2. What you want to become says a lot about who you are

Your career also has a lot to do with how much money you'll make.

Money isn't everything. You should do what you love. But you need money to pay the bills. Here's how much money certain careers pay on average in Kentucky.

If you want one of these jobs, you definitely need a college degree, maybe even an advanced degree. (Don't expect to make this much right out of college ... you need experience, too.)

Occupations by salary

Orthodontists	\$201,626
Lawyers	\$94,441
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$83,989
Veterinarians	\$71,443
Art, Drama, Music Teachers	\$54,219
Registered Nurses	\$53,764
Librarians	\$47,287
Kindergarten Teachers	\$43,071
Firefighters	\$31,270
Real Estate Agents	\$31,103
Photographers	\$30,349

*Source: Commonwealth of Kentucky Cabinet for Workforce Development, Department for Employment Services, Research and Statistics Branch.



TECHNICAL DATA YOUR FINANCIAL AID GLOSSARY

Note: Terms defined elsewhere in this glossary are in *italics*.

A

ACT The test required or accepted at all public and many private universities in Kentucky. It has four sections — English, math, reading and science reasoning — and an optional writing exam. Scores are used for admissions purposes, awarding *scholarships* and placing students in special programs and honors courses.

AP The Advanced Placement Program lets high school students study college-level subjects for advanced placement and/or credit upon entering college.

Associate degree Awarded after 15 months to two years of study. Associate degrees include:

- Associate of arts (AA) or associate of science (AS), often transferable to four-year colleges. Courses can be applied toward a *bachelor's degree*.
- Associate in applied science (AAS) in a technical area meant to lead directly to a job. Most courses cannot be applied toward a four-year degree.
- Associate in applied technology (AAT) in a technical area meant to lead directly to a job. Most courses cannot be applied toward a four-year degree.

B

Bachelor's degree Generally awarded after four to five years of study. The most common are bachelor of arts (BA) and bachelor of science (BS).

C

Certificate Given in a nondegree program, usually in a vocational or technical area, to prepare for a specific occupation. Certificate programs generally last 6 to 12 months.

CLEP The College-Level Examination Program offers subject examinations or general examinations. Some colleges use the scores to award *credit by examination* to entering freshmen.

Commuter students Students who live at home instead of on campus.

Conversion scholarship/loan Requires recipients to provide certain services or pay back the funds received with *interest*.

Credit by examination Process in which students can earn credit for college-level knowledge by passing a test. The *CLEP* and the *AP Program* allow students to earn college credit this way.

Credit hour or clock hour Unit of measurement for an educational program. While most community colleges and four-year colleges and universities use credit hours, many *proprietary schools* use clock hours.

D

Diploma Given in a nondegree program, usually a vocational or technical field, to prepare for a job. Diploma programs are generally nine to 18 months long. This diploma is not the same as the diploma you receive when you graduate from high school.

Dual credit program Program in which courses satisfy high school graduation requirements and earn college *credit hours*.



TECHNICAL DATA YOUR FINANCIAL AID GLOSSARY (CONT.)

E

Expected family contribution (EFC) Amount the student and family are expected to pay toward yearly college costs. The amount is derived from *need analysis* of the family's income and assets.

F

FAFSA The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the *need analysis* form all students must complete when applying for federal and state student aid. Some colleges use the FAFSA to award scholarships. The best way to file is online, although a limited number of the paper version may be available.

Financial aid Money from state and federal governments, colleges, private organizations, associations and companies to help pay the costs of a college education or technical training.

Financial aid package Total *financial aid* a college awards a student. It may consist of several types of aid, including *grants*, *scholarships*, *loans*, *work-study* programs and others. *Financial need*, availability of funds, *institutional aid* policies and the number of students who need financial assistance all influence a student's financial aid package.

Financial need The amount of higher education expenses that a student's *expected family contribution (EFC)* falls short of paying. Financial need equals the cost of education minus the *EFC*.

G

GPA A grade point average is the sum of the graded points earned (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0) divided by the numbers of hours attempted for courses taken during a semester.

Graduate student Student who has earned a *bachelor's degree* and is working toward a master's, doctorate or professional degree.

Grant *Financial aid* award, generally based on *financial need*, to help pay the cost of higher education. A grant generally does not have to be repaid.

I

IB The International Baccalaureate Program lets students earn college credit while in high school. Some schools require students to participate for two years, others allow them to take classes only one year.

Institutional aid Student financial aid administered by the college or *proprietary trade school*.

Interest A charge for a *loan*, usually a percentage of the amount borrowed.

K

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) State agency that helps students plan and pay for college by providing *financial aid* programs and free materials and information.

L

Loan Money borrowed to help pay higher education costs. Loans must be repaid with *interest*.

M

Major Primary academic field of study in college.

Merit-based Financial aid based on academic, athletic or some other type of achievement.

Minor Secondary academic field of study in college.



N

Need analysis Used to determine how much students and their families can reasonably be expected to pay toward college expenses. Updated each year by the federal government and other organizations to reflect changes in the economy.

Need-based Financial aid based on the government's *need analysis* formula.

P

Postsecondary "After high school." Postsecondary education can be received at a college, university, community and technical college, *proprietary trade school* or off campus.

Proprietary trade schools Privately owned schools that provide a wide range of courses of study, such as cosmetology, business and broadcasting. Programs range from 2 to 24 months and lead to *certificates*, *diplomas* or degrees in a variety of subjects.

S

SAT I A college entrance exam with multiple-choice questions in math and verbal sections and an essay. Scores are used for admissions purposes and in awarding *scholarships*.

SAT II One-hour tests in specific subjects such as mathematics, science, English or foreign languages. More selective schools require two or three for freshman placement.

Scholarship A *financial aid* award to help pay for higher education. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid and are normally based on ability, talent or achievement.

Student Aid Report (SAR) Document produced from information provided on the *FAFSA* and sent to the student. The SAR reports the student's eligibility for aid and *expected family contribution (EFC)*.

T

Transcript Cumulative academic record that lists courses taken, grades received and credits or credit hours received.

Tuition The amount schools charge for instruction and for the use of certain school facilities, such as libraries.

U

Undergraduate College student who has not yet earned a degree.

W

Waiver Arrangement under which a school does not charge specific costs if a student meets certain qualifications.

Work-study Employment that lets students earn money to help pay the cost of higher education.

WARNING!

Never pay anyone for financial aid information.

The information is FREE from your school counselor, library, online at GoHigherKY.org or at the financial aid office of the college you plan to attend.

THE SEARCH IS ON



You just learned a lot of new words, and there are more to come. Now it's time to put your knowledge to the test. See how many of the words you need to know you can find in the puzzle.

Advanced Placement

Grant

Stafford Loan

ACT

Interest

Teacher Scholarship

Associate Degree

KEES

Technical College

Community College

KHEAA

Trade School

Conversion Loan

Need Analysis

Transcript

EFC

PLUS Loan

Tuition

FAFSA

Postsecondary

University

Financial Need

Scholarship

Waiver

Work Study



MOVING FORWARD

So you know you want to go to college. You just haven't figured out how you're going to pay for it.

The good news is you (and your parents) don't have to go it alone. Kentucky has many financial aid programs to offer. Some you have to qualify for, like scholarships. Others, like some student loans, are available to just about anyone who needs them. We'll explain them in the pages ahead.

Get as many of these options as you're qualified for. Start with the "free money" you don't have to pay back, like scholarships and grants. Cover the rest with low-cost student loans. Soon, you'll be fully equipped for a smooth ride.

Get in gear now

Getting ready for college means more than learning about financial aid. Make the most of school right now.

- 1. Develop good study habits** — Participate in class, ask questions, listen closely, take notes, find a good place to study at home and complete all assignments on time.
- 2. Make good grades** — Keeping your grades up increases your chances of being eligible for scholarships and of succeeding once you get to college.
- 3. Push your limits** — Sign up for challenging, career-related classes in middle school and high school. Show up every day. Study hard. (Trust us, people care about this stuff.)
- 4. Get involved** — Take part in after-school activities, like writing for the school paper. Your activities don't have to be related to your goal. They'll make you a more interesting person. Plus, extracurricular activities may give you an edge in the admissions process and help you qualify for some scholarships.
- 5. Take a personal inventory** — Decide what you like to do and what you're good at (preferably something somebody will pay for). Talk with your parents about your goals. Not your idea of fun? Relax. They may be very impressed.
- 6. Explore your options** — The career you choose may determine whether you should study at a two-year or four-year college. Figure out what kind of education you need to get the kind of job you want. You can get details from the Career Center at GoHigherKY.org.
- 7. Open a savings account** — Stash your spare change there for college. It all adds up.

CLASSES TO CAREERS

Because there are so many career choices, the decision can seem daunting. Did you know that your talents and interests could lead to a career? If you know what you don't like, chances are you know what you DO like. Talk with people whose careers or jobs interest you, asking where they went to school and what they thought of the program they took. Ask your parents, guidance counselor or librarian for help in your career quest and check out tools like the Career Center at GoHigherKY.org.

You may know which classes you like already. Ever consider turning them into a career?

English/language arts

Teaching, writing, law, journalism or public relations.

Mathematics

Accounting, statistics, financial planning, computers, aeronautics, teaching or insurance.

Science and health

Medicine, pharmacology, veterinary science, meteorology, occupational therapy, environmental science, chemistry or medical research.

Social studies

Psychology, city planning, criminal justice, anthropology, human resources, government or social work.

Foreign languages

Government, translating, travel agency or foreign service.

Technical education

Construction, mechanics, manufacturing or transportation technology.

Computer science

Astronomy, advertising, business, engineering or software design.

Drama, music and art

Animation, theater, cinematography, interior design, graphic arts, advertising, website design or broadcasting.



Drivers' Ed (sort of)

Consider different colleges or vocational and trade schools. Find out their admission requirements.

Where to go:

Public universities: Offer programs leading to bachelor's and master's degrees. Some offer doctoral and professional degrees.

Private schools: Similar to public universities but usually smaller.

Community and technical colleges: Have two-year associate degrees you can use on the job or transfer to a four-year degree program.

Trade schools: Offer specialized training in careers. May offer programs leading directly to jobs or associate degrees.

THE ROAD TO COLLEGE CHECKLIST

Freshman

- o Start thinking about what your interests are and take electives that meet those interests.
- o Sign up for honors courses. College admissions counselors, look not only at your GPA but also at what classes you were taking when you earned that stellar GPA.
- o Go to GoHigherKY.org and register.

Sophomore

- o Think about what career you may like to have when you get out of school. It will help when deciding on a college if you know what majors interest you.
- o Explore careers at GoHigherKY.org.
- o Make regular appointments with your school counselor to be sure you're on the right path to graduation.

Junior

- o Research colleges that you may be interested in attending.
- o Take AP or IB classes.
- o Watch for scholarships.
- o Register for the ACT and/or SAT in the spring.
- o Review and search colleges on GoHigherKY.org

Senior

- o Take AP or IB classes.
- o Retake the ACT or SAT if needed.
- o Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- o Meet with college admissions representatives or schedule visits to schools you're interested in attending. Talk with students and staff.
- o Narrow down college choices.
- o Prepare your college applications.
- o Watch for scholarships and meet the deadlines.
- o Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available from your high school counselor, the financial aid office of the school you plan to attend or at fafsa.ed.gov.
- o Compare your financial aid package from each school you applied to and make your decision.

What could keep you off the road...

Hey! No PASS, no DRIVE!

In Kentucky, you can't get your learner's permit or driver's license if you don't pass four courses each semester, if you have more than 9 unexcused absences, or if you drop out.

If you already have your permit or license and you can't meet the above rules, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will take your permit or license away. Yikes!



REV UP YOUR REVENUE

Everybody should know how to manage money and make it grow. Attending college or technical school can boost your lifetime earnings with higher salaries. But even if you never go to college or technical school, knowing what to do with your money will mean you can manage your income and expenses throughout your life.

Budgeting

A budget helps you track the money you make and spend. Create a budget by estimating how much money you'll make and spend each month. Your main goal is to have money left over at the end of the month.

Write down what you spend your money on in an average month: food, gas, rent, entertainment, etc. Is it something you must have, like food? Or is it something that makes your life more enjoyable, like eating out? Is it a need or a want?

The most important thing is to save as much money as you can. When you get paid, the first thing you should do is deposit some of your pay in a savings account. You'll have money if something unexpected happens, and that money will earn interest.

Don't think you make enough to save anything? Review your spending habits. Do you really need everything you're spending money on?

Whatever your salary is, you'll have to allow for deductions, such as taxes and Social Security. The sample pay stub below shows you where your hard-earned dollars go.



SAMPLE STUB

EARNINGS			TAXES WITHHELD			OTHER DEDUCTIONS	
Description	Hrs.	Amount	Tax	Current	YTD	Description	Amount
REGULAR	35.75	239.75	FED INCOME TAX	34.85	675.00	401(K)	29.50
OVERTIME	5.75	53.84	SOCIAL SEC	11.03	220.06	HEALTH	14.75
CURRENT		293.63	MEDICARE	4.19	83.80		
YTD		5872.60	STATE INCOME TAX	8.79	175.80		

EMPLOYEE SCOTT JOHNSON
SSN 999-99-9999
PAY PERIOD 10/4/04 TO 10/10/04
PAY DATE 10/13/04
CHECK NO. 3456
NET PAY \$190.52

PAYROLL

SAMPLE STUB:

- 1 What pay period does this check cover?
- 2 What is your take-home pay?
- 3 How much federal income tax has been deducted this year?
- 4 How much did you put away in a retirement plan?
- 5 How much did you pay for health insurance?

Compounding interest

When you invest money, that money earns interest. Compound interest is when your money (or your original investment) plus the interest it has earned continues to earn additional interest.

You don't have to have thousands to start investing; some plans are as little as a few hundred bucks. So, save away and let your money work for you for a change. The chart below* shows how savings can grow through compound interest. It's amazing how important it is to begin saving regularly and early in life. The figures should encourage you to save more and spend less.

Investor A			Investor B		
Age	Deposit	End of Year Accumulation	Age	Deposit	End of Year Accumulation
22	\$2,000	\$2,220	22	0	0
23	\$2,000	\$4,684	23	0	0
24	\$2,000	\$7,419	24	0	0
25	\$2,000	\$10,456	25	0	0
26	\$2,000	\$13,826	26	0	0
27	\$2,000	\$17,567	27	0	0
28	\$2,000	\$21,719	28	\$2,000	\$2,220
29	0	\$24,108	29	\$2,000	\$4,684
30	0	\$26,760	30	\$2,000	\$7,419
31	0	\$29,703	31	\$2,000	\$10,456
32	0	\$32,971	32	\$2,000	\$13,826
33	0	\$36,598	33	\$2,000	\$17,567
34	0	\$40,623	34	\$2,000	\$21,719
35	0	\$45,092	35	\$2,000	\$26,328
36	0	\$50,052	36	\$2,000	\$31,444
37	0	\$55,558	37	\$2,000	\$37,123
38	0	\$61,669	38	\$2,000	\$43,426
39	0	\$68,453	39	\$2,000	\$50,423
40	0	\$75,982	40	\$2,000	\$58,190
41	0	\$84,340	41	\$2,000	\$66,811
42	0	\$93,618	42	\$2,000	\$76,380
43	0	\$103,916	43	\$2,000	\$87,002
44	0	\$115,347	44	\$2,000	\$98,792
45	0	\$128,035	45	\$2,000	\$111,879
46	0	\$142,119	46	\$2,000	\$126,406
47	0	\$157,752	47	\$2,000	\$142,530
48	0	\$175,104	48	\$2,000	\$160,429
49	0	\$194,366	49	\$2,000	\$180,296
50	0	\$215,746	50	\$2,000	\$202,348
Total Contributions		\$14,000			\$46,000
Total Value		\$215,746			\$202,348

*Courtesy of KidsEcon Posters® (www.kidseconposters.com) and the Kentucky Council of Economic Education (<http://www.econ.org/>)

Investor A: Opens an IRA at 11%, deposits \$2,000 each year for seven years, then makes last deposit at age 28.

Investor B: During the first six years, spends money, then makes first deposit into an IRA at age 28 and continues to deposit \$2,000 each year (for 22 years!) until age 50.

Results: Investors A and B have almost the same amount even though Investor A saved only \$14,000 compared to Investor B's \$46,000!

PUT THE BREAKS ON DEBT

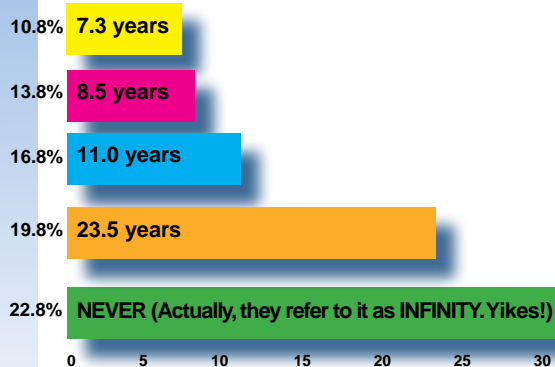
Paying off debt

Let's say you get a credit card with a \$2,000 limit. You spend \$1,500. (Remember, you're borrowing and spending.) Your minimum payment is just \$25, and you can come up with that easily. That's a good thing, because even if you make that payment, on time, every month, without fail, you'll be paying that \$25 a month for a long, long time.

The ugly truth

Take a look at the graph below. To the left, you'll find various rates of interest. (Yours will most likely be the last one.) The bars show how long it will take you to pay off the debt by just paying the minimum payment.

How long it takes to pay off a \$1,500 debt



Rule of thumb: Monthly payments on your debt (your car, appliances, furniture, credit cards, bank and student loans) should amount to no more than 20% of your income.

Credit cards

So how do a textbook and a couple of pizzas end up costing you a small fortune? It's because (we bet you've heard this before) there's no such thing as a free lunch (told you). Let's say you've filled out the form a friendly credit card representative gave you at freshman orientation. You just found out that you have a \$2,000 line of credit.

After pizzas, books and all the other things that you just didn't have the cash for, you owe \$1,500. The minimum payment is just a few dollars a month, and you haven't even reached your credit limit. No problem, right? **WRONG!** If you owe \$1,500, are paying 22.8% interest and are making the minimum payment each month, you'll **NEVER** pay off the \$1,500 before you die.

Compare credit card offers. Some charge an annual fee, others require a deposit equal to the amount of credit you have available — not a bad idea, since you can't charge over this limit. You can get in way over your head with a credit card. Colleges say they lose more students because they have to go to work to pay credit card bills than because of failing grades.

Explain in writing

If you have any bill you can't pay, contact your creditor immediately to work out a payment arrangement. Whatever you do, don't ignore letters from people you owe! This just makes companies more aggressive in trying to get their money back because you look like you're hiding. It's best to explain everything in writing so you have a record of it. Most companies will work with you if you're upfront about a temporary lack of cash. Ask if the creditor will waive penalty fees and extend your payment period after you explain your situation.

If you do find yourself in a bind, look at your finances to figure out a budget before writing your creditors so you can give them an idea of how much you can reasonably pay.



Why worry?

Because you're building a credit score. If you pay your bills late, it will affect the interest rate you pay on your car loan, your apartment deposit, even your car insurance! When you get a bill, pay it on time — every month.

A credit score is a number based on your payment history. Lenders use it to estimate the risk they take by lending you money. Generally, the higher your score, the less risk you represent.

If you open your utility accounts in your name instead of your parents' and then apply for and get a store credit card (buy something and pay it off in full for a couple of months), you can build a good credit score in six months.

Any late payment stays on your credit report for seven years, even if you've completely paid off the creditor. Start off on the right foot by paying all your bills on time and using your credit card (if you HAVE to have one) sparingly and paying it off EVERY MONTH.

Don't forget: Many employers will check your credit history before offering you a job.

Get your free credit report

It's a good idea to monitor and review your credit report each year. At www.AnnualCreditReport.com, you can request a free credit report once every 12 months from each nationwide consumer credit reporting company.

You may request your report online, by phone or mail. Online reports can be seen as soon as you verify your identity. Reports requested by phone or mail will be processed within 15 days of receiving the request.

Debit vs. credit cards:

What's the difference between debit and credit cards? Since a debit card is tied to your checking account, it automatically takes the money from it. There is no grace period; you spend it, it's gone. A credit card, however, offers you a 30-day interest-free loan if you pay the balance each month in full. (Which you should always do. Who wants to pay 19 percent interest or more on pizza?)

Be credit smart

Read all applications carefully — especially the fine print. What happens after the “teaser rate” expires? What happens to your interest rate if you're late with a payment or fail to make a payment? What's the interest rate for a cash advance?

- Consider a secured credit card tied to a bank account or a debit card. Money is deducted directly from your checking account, so you can't spend more than you actually have.
- Use credit only if you're **sure** you can repay the debt.
- Avoid impulse shopping on your credit card.
- Save your credit card for emergencies. (Paying for spring break doesn't count.)
- Carry only the cards you think you'll use. No more than two!
- Pay bills promptly to keep finance and other charges to a minimum.

— CollegeBoard.com

Identity theft

You can take several steps to protect yourself from identity theft.

Protect your Social Security number, bank account and credit card numbers, PINs, passwords and other personal information. Never provide this information in response to a phone call, a fax, a letter or e-mail — no matter how friendly or official it may appear.

Friends, relatives, roommates and workers who come into homes make up a large percentage of identity thieves. They're in the best position to find confidential information.

Pick up your mail as soon as possible or use a locked mailbox. Put outgoing mail in a blue Postal Service mailbox, hand it to a mail carrier or take it to the post office. Shred documents that contain personal or financial information.

Never provide bank, credit card or other sensitive data when visiting a website that doesn't explain how your information will be protected, including its use of "encryption" to safely transmit and store data.

Use a firewall to stop intruders from gaining remote access to your PC. Download and frequently update security patches to correct weaknesses a hacker might exploit.

Con artists often pose as government employees or representatives of charities. They hope that trusting souls will send cash or checks, provide SSNs or credit card numbers, or wire money from a bank account. Don't be taken in, especially if the contact is by e-mail.



Avoiding a \$500 cell phone bill

Most students have a cell phone — and sometimes a huge bill that goes with it. Compare your plan with new ones to see if you could save money. Find out which carrier offers the best plan for your needs and covers the area where you're going to be calling or texting the most.

If you have a cell phone, use it wisely. Taxes, activation fees, overage and roaming charges can all add up. Get the bottom-line cost for your first bill, plus itemized costs, in writing.

A cell phone contract is legally binding — and the contract will favor the company's bottom line, not yours. Read the fine print, paying close attention to the "Terms and Conditions." You can compare the service agreements of many cell phone companies online. Check them out before signing!



PREDATORY LENDING TRAPS

Think you just need enough money to tide you over until payday? Before you head to a payday loan store, know what you're getting yourself into. Here's how it works: You write a check for the amount you want to borrow, plus a fee. The company gives you the money, minus the fee, and holds the check until the loan is due, usually your next payday. The fee can be a percentage of the value of the check or can be based on increments of money borrowed, such as a fee for every \$50 borrowed. You're charged a new fee every time the loan is extended or "rolled over."

How expensive is a payday loan? Take a look:

- You borrow \$100 for two weeks.
- You write a check for \$115, with \$15 being the fee. The lender agrees to hold your check until your next payday.
- When that day comes, the lender deposits the check, or you redeem it by paying the \$115 in cash, or you roll over the loan and are charged another \$15 for two more weeks.

The cost of the initial \$100 loan is a \$15 finance charge and an annual percentage rate (APR) of 391 percent. If you roll over the loan three times, the finance charge would climb to \$60 to borrow \$100. No wonder many states have outlawed payday loans.

Here are some alternatives to payday loans that you might consider:

- Consider a small loan from your credit union or a small loan company.
- Shop for the credit offer with the lowest cost and compare APR and finance charges.
- Contact your creditors as quickly as possible if you are having trouble making your payments. Many will be willing to work with you.
- Contact your local consumer credit counseling service for help working out a debt repayment plan.

The bottom line: Try to find an alternative. If you must use a payday loan, borrow only as much as you can afford to pay back with your next paycheck and still have enough to make it to your next payday.



Want more financial knowledge? Check out *It's Money, Baby* at **kheaa.com**. It's a road map to your money!



YOU'RE THE DRIVER

What will you drive?

Want an expensive sports car? Get a job as an anesthesiologist and you can probably afford it. Become a sales rep and we see you in a sleek sedan. The job you get and the car you drive is tied to how much education you have. Answer the following questions to find out what kind of life is in your future.

1. Housing:

I'd like to live in (circle one)

- a. an unfurnished one-bedroom apartment
- b. a furnished one-bedroom apartment
- c. a rented two-bedroom house
- d. a two-bedroom house that I will own

2. Transportation:

I'd like to drive (circle one)

- a. a new economy car
- b. a used economy car
- c. a new mid-sized car
- d. a used mid-sized car
- e. a new sports car
- f. a used sports car
- g. a new truck
- h. a used truck



3. Food:

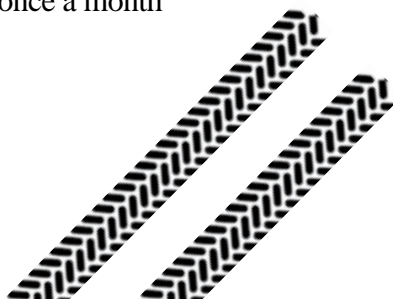
I'd like to (circle one)

- a. buy groceries and cook all my meals
- b. eat all of my meals at fast food restaurants
- c. cook some meals and eat out some

4. Entertainment:

My entertainment will be (circle all that apply)

- a. a movie, four times a month
- b. sporting events, three times a month
- c. surfing the Internet and watching cable TV every night
- d. biking, rollerblading, hiking and other outdoor sports
- e. attending a concert, once a month



5. Phone:

I'd like to (circle all that apply)

- a. have a home phone
- b. have a cell phone
- c. not have a phone

6. Insurance:

I plan to purchase (circle one in each group)

Car

- a. full coverage
- b. partial coverage

Home

- a. renter's insurance
- b. homeowner's insurance
- c. no rental/homeowner's insurance

Medical

- a. I plan to continue my education after high school, so the job I hold is likely to provide insurance as a benefit.
- b. I do NOT plan to continue my education after high school, so the job I hold is NOT likely to provide insurance as a benefit.
- c. no health insurance

7. Educational plans: (circle one)

- a. high school dropout
- b. high school graduate
- c. some college or associate's degree
- d. bachelor's degree
- e. master's degree
- f. doctorate
- g. professional degree



ADD UP YOUR MONTHLY EXPENSES

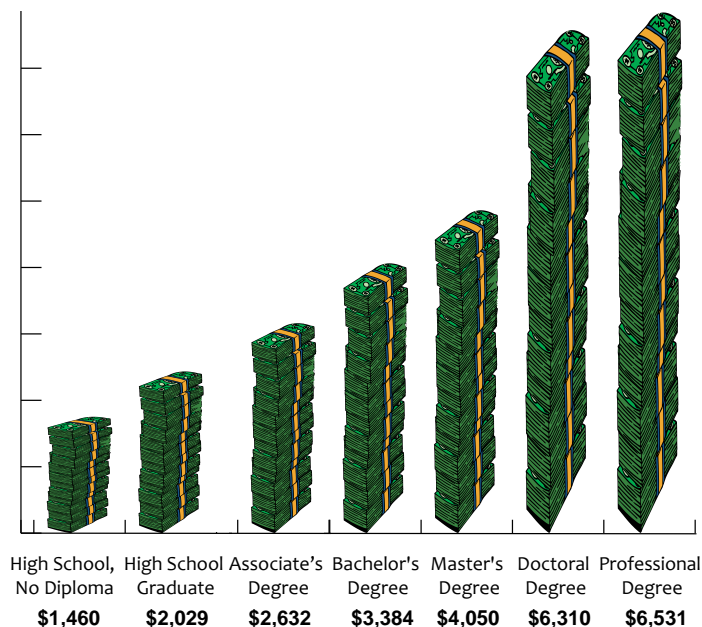
Are your expenses greater than your earnings? If so, you either need to cut back on your costs or earn more money. How much money do you need to make to have the life you want? How much education do you need to earn that much money?

\$ _____	1. Housing a. \$475 b. \$600 c. \$800 d. \$1,000
\$ _____	2. Transportation a. \$400 b. \$250 c. \$550 d. \$350 e. \$700 f. \$450 g. \$710 h. \$425
\$ _____	3. Food a. \$250 b. \$450 c. \$300
\$ _____	4. Entertainment a. \$32 b. \$100 c. \$42 d. \$0 e. \$70
\$ _____	5. Phone a. \$19.95 b. \$30 c. \$0
\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____	6. Insurance CAR a. \$100 b. \$50 HOME a. \$20 b. \$30 c. \$0 MEDICAL a. \$0 b. \$160 c. \$0
\$ _____ \$ _____	7. Education Estimate a minimum monthly payment of \$50
Miscellaneous Expenses	
\$ _____	Clothing Estimate your monthly costs for clothing
\$ _____	Doctor Visits # of visits per month _____ x \$10 if you have medical insurance (see #6) x \$50 if you don't have medical insurance
\$ _____	Utilities (electric, water, sewer, gas) \$ 150
\$ _____	Gas \$125
\$ _____	Savings It is best to save 10% of your income
\$ _____	Total Monthly Expenses



Find the level of education you selected on question 7 on the chart below to see your monthly bring home pay before taxes.

Monthly Median Earnings by Educational Attainment - Kentucky



Based on information from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

LOADED WITH OPTIONS CHOICES FOR STATE FINANCIAL AID

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) administers the following programs established to enhance higher education opportunities for Kentucky students. Since its creation, the agency has helped hundreds of thousands of students pay for their higher education.

Grants

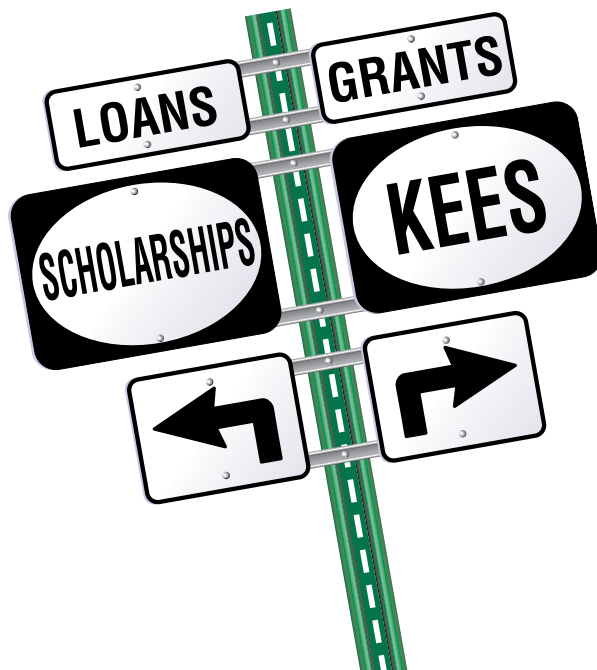
Grants are financial aid awards generally based on financial need. A grant usually doesn't have to be repaid.

College Access Program (CAP) Grant

- Eligibility: Undergraduates attending a Kentucky college or trade school at least half-time.
- Amount: Up to \$950 per semester for full-time. \$79 each credit hour for part-time.
- Deadline: File as soon as possible after January 1.
- Fill out this application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov.

Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG)

- Eligibility: Full-time undergraduate at a private Kentucky college.
- Amount: Up to \$3,000 per year.
- Deadline: File as soon as possible after January 1.
- Fill out this application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov.



Scholarships

Scholarships are financial aid awards that don't have to be repaid. They are awarded based on a particular skill, ability, talent or achievement demonstrated by the recipient.

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

- Eligibility: High school senior with at least a 3.5 GPA after seven semesters; or a GED graduate with a minimum GED composite score of 2700. Must be recommended by high school counselor or GED coordinator.
- Amount: Up to \$1,500 per year.
- Deadline: Seniors must apply by February 15. GED graduates must apply by June 15.
- Fill out this application: Contact your high school counselor or GED coordinator. The application is online at kheaa.com.



Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES)

- Eligibility: Kentucky high school students earn awards based on their yearly GPA. GED graduates may qualify based on ACT/SAT composite score. Recipients can use awards for up to eight semesters at participating Kentucky colleges as long as they meet GPA requirements.
- Amount: Base awards from \$125 (2.5 GPA) to \$500 (4.0 GPA) each year of high school. Bonus award from \$36 to \$500 if you earn a composite score of at least 15 on the ACT or a 710 on the SAT.
- Deadline: None. High schools send student information to KHEAA each year. GED graduates must have their ACT/SAT scores sent to the college they plan to attend.
- Fill out this application: None. KHEAA will send your KEES award to the college where you're enrolled.

For more detailed information about the KEES program, see pages 24 and 25.

Mary Jo Young Scholarship

- Eligibility: A low-income Kentucky high school student enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit courses. AP classes must be taken through the Kentucky Virtual High School. Dual credit students must be enrolled in a Kentucky college or university.
- Amount: \$730 for two content-semester courses. \$370 for one content-semester course. A book allowance of \$125 per course is also available.
- Fill out this application: The application is available at kheaa.com. The deadline is May 1.



LOADED WITH OPTIONS (CONT.)

Conversion Scholarships/Loans

These are scholarships that require you to provide certain services, like working in a particular field for a specified number of years. If those services aren't provided, the scholarship converts to a loan that must be repaid with interest.

Teacher Scholarship

- Eligibility: Kentucky resident seeking initial teacher certification.
- Amount: \$2,500 each semester. \$1,250 each summer term.
- Deadline: May 1.
- Fill out this application: Teacher Scholarship Application online at kheaa.com and Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov.

Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship

- Eligibility: Must be a Kentucky resident accepted at the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Amount: The difference between the average in-state tuition charged at state medical schools and that charged at the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine.
- Deadline: July 1.
- Fill out this application: Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship Application available through the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Work-Study

Work-study programs offer jobs that let students earn money to help pay for their education.

KHEAA Work-Study

- Eligibility: Kentucky resident attending a participating school.
- Amount: At least the federal minimum wage.
- Deadline: Contact your college's Work-Study Program Coordinator.
- Fill out this application: Ask the Work-Study Coordinator at the school you'll be attending.

Ask your parents if they have taken advantage of qualified state tuition programs. The Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust lets parents save over several years for tuition and other education-related expenses.

If your parents used this program, you may have a nice bonus when you graduate.



State and federal financial aid eligibility requirements and award amounts are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, log on to kheaa.com.



Loans for students and parents

After you've received all the scholarships and grants you're eligible for, you may still need more help to afford college. Low-cost student loans, loans for parents and consolidation loans are available through the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

Federal Stafford Loans

- Eligibility: Undergraduate, graduate or professional student.
- Amount: \$3,500 - \$10,500 maximum per year for undergraduates; \$8,500 - \$20,500 maximum per year for graduate or professional students.
- Fill out this application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov and the Stafford Master Promissory Note (MPN) at kheaa.com.

Current loan limits as of August 2008 are:

Grade Level	Dependent Status	Independent Status
First Year	\$3,500	\$ 7,500
Second Year	\$4,500	\$ 8,500
Each Remaining Year of Undergraduate Study	\$5,500	\$10,500
Each Year of Graduate/ Professional Study		\$20,500

Federal PLUS Loans for Parents and Graduate Students

- Eligibility: Parent or stepparent of a dependent student; or graduate or professional student
- Amount: Cost of attendance minus estimated financial aid. For details, contact your college's financial aid office.
- Fill out this application: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.ed.gov; PLUS Loan Application or PLUS MPN at kheaa.com.

Get all the "free" money you can for school first. That means grants, scholarships and work-study. Then you can get a student loan to cover the rest.



Many forms can be filled out online!



ANYBODY SEEN MY KEES?



The Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) is your key to free money for college.

KEES provides Kentucky high school students with money for tuition and education-related expenses. Just earn a 2.5 GPA or better in each year of high school to get it. The better you do in high school, the more you'll earn. You don't even have to apply for the award; KHEAA and your school handle it all.

You can also get a bonus award based on the highest ACT composite score you make on any tests you take before you graduate, as long as it's 15 or above (or the equivalent SAT). You must qualify for at least one base (GPA) award to receive the bonus.

Once you get to college, keep your grades up to keep the scholarship.

KEES Award Amounts

GPA	Bonus Amount	ACT Score	Bonus Amount
2.50	\$125	15	\$36
2.60	\$150	16	\$71
2.70	\$175	17	\$107
2.75	\$187	18	\$143
2.80	\$200	19	\$179
2.90	\$225	20	\$214
3.00	\$250	21	\$250
3.10	\$275	22	\$286
3.20	\$300	23	\$321
3.25	\$312	24	\$357
3.30	\$325	25	\$393
3.40	\$350	26	\$428
3.50	\$375	27	\$464
3.60	\$400	28 or above	\$500
3.70	\$425		
3.75	\$437		
3.80	\$450		
3.90	\$475		
4.00	\$500		

Amounts may change based on funding.

How much can you earn?

Check your GPA below to find the base amount of your scholarship. For instance, a high school freshman with a 3.5 GPA would get a \$375 scholarship. If that student earns a 3.6 GPA his sophomore year, he'll add another \$400 to his award. Amounts are subject to change based on available funding.

AP or IB bonus!

Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches during any year of high school can earn additional KEES bonus money by making qualifying scores on Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams. The chart below shows the amounts that will be awarded for each score. There is no limit to the number of bonus awards a student can receive.

Advanced Placement		International Baccalaureate	
Exam Score	Bonus Amount	Exam Score	Bonus Amount
3	\$200	5	\$200
4	\$250	6	\$250
5	\$300	7	\$300



Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) awards are funded by Kentucky Lottery revenue.

Do the math

Fill in your GPA and your base and bonus awards. Add them up to determine your annual KEES award.

	GPA	Amount
<i>Freshman</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<i>Sophomore</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<i>Junior</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<i>Senior</i>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Add these to your ACT Score Award

+ =

Keeping KEES in your pocket

Keep your college GPA high to keep getting KEES. For the full award, you must have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA at the end of your freshman year.

After that, keep at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA to get your full amount. If your GPA is between 2.5 and 2.99, the scholarship will be reduced 50% for the next academic year; below 2.5, you lose it for the next academic year. Students who lose their KEES can regain it by having at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA at the end of the following academic year.

What you need to know

- Enroll in the fall or spring term of a participating college to receive your KEES award. The college will report your enrollment status to KHEAA after classes begin. KHEAA will disburse your KEES award — half each term — to the college. The college will credit your account, or send you a check if you are paid in full.

- To get the full amount, you must be a full-time student. If you're enrolled at least half-time, you'll receive a proportionate amount. Each academic term for which a scholarship is received will count as a full academic term, even if the award amount is reduced.
- KEES awards can be used at any participating accredited public or private school in Kentucky, including community colleges. If your program of study is not available at a public school in Kentucky, you may be able to use KEES at an out-of-state school if the state participates in the Academic Common Market (ACM). The ACM allows Kentucky residents to pay in-state tuition and fees if your program isn't available in Kentucky. Learn more at cpe.ky.gov.
- You're generally eligible to get KEES for up to eight academic terms in an undergraduate program. For most programs, the scholarship must be used within five years of high school graduation. Students in some five-year programs have 10 academic terms within six years of high school graduation to complete their program.



FEDERAL AID OPTIONS



See the light! Here's important information.

Eligibility for federal student aid programs is determined from the information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). How much aid you receive is based on several factors, including financial need.

To be eligible to receive federal student aid you must:

- Demonstrate financial need (except for Unsubsidized Federal Stafford and PLUS Loans)
- Demonstrate you are qualified to enroll in a postsecondary school by:
 - Receiving a high school diploma or GED
 - Pass an approved ability-to-benefit test
 - Complete a high school education in a state-approved home school setting
 - Meet other standards approved by your state
- Be working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress once in school

If you've been convicted of selling or possessing illegal drugs, you might not be able to receive federal student aid. Call the Federal Student Aid Center at 800.4FEDAID if you have a conviction for these offenses.

Even if you aren't eligible for federal aid, you should still complete the FAFSA. KHEAA and many colleges use the information from the FAFSA to determine eligibility for their financial aid programs.

Your financial need is calculated from the information you provide on your FAFSA. This information is used to calculate your expected family contribution (EFC), which is how much your family is expected to pay toward your college costs. Your EFC will appear on the Student Aid Report (SAR) you receive.

To be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant, your EFC must be below a certain number. To determine your financial need for other federal aid programs, your school will subtract the following from your cost of attendance: the EFC, any Pell Grant amount you're eligible for, and other financial aid you'll receive. If anything is left over, you're considered to have financial need for additional student aid.

The only way to find out how much federal student aid you are eligible for is to apply. You can apply online at fafsa.ed.gov.



FEDERAL AID PROGRAM CHART

To apply for any of the federal student aid programs, you must complete the FAFSA.

	Programs	General Eligibility	Annual Award Amounts	Filing Deadlines
Grants	Federal Pell Grant	Undergraduate student with financial need.	Varies from year to year. Pell grants ranged from \$400 to \$4,731 for the 2008-2009 award year.	As soon as possible after January 1
	Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Undergraduate student with exceptional financial need. Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority.	\$100 to \$4,000 per year.	As soon as possible after January 1
	Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)	First- or second-year college student enrolled in a 2- or 4-year degree-granting institution who completed a rigorous high school program of study. First-year students must have graduated high school after January 1, 2006. Second-year students must have graduated high school after January 1, 2005.	First-year: Up to \$750 Second-year: Up to \$1,300	As soon as possible after January 1
	SMART Grant	Third or fourth-year college student enrolled in a 4-year degree-granting institution, be majoring in mathematics, science (including physical, life and computer sciences), technology, engineering or a critical foreign language.	Up to \$4,000	As soon as possible after January 1
Work-Study	Federal Work-Study	Full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.	At least minimum wage.	As soon as possible after January 1
Loans	Federal Perkins Loan	Undergraduate or graduate student enrolled at least half-time. Federal Pell Grant recipients receive priority.	Undergraduate: Up to \$4,000 per year. Graduate: Up to \$6,000 per year. Based on financial need.	As soon as possible after January 1
	Stafford Loan	Undergraduate, graduate or professional student enrolled at least half-time.	Depends on grade level and dependency status. Maximum for undergraduate: \$3,500–\$10,500; graduate or professional student: \$8,500–\$20,500	As soon as possible after January 1
	PLUS Loan	Graduate student or parent of dependent undergraduate student enrolled at least half-time.	Cost of attendance less the amount of other aid received.	As soon as possible after January 1

Federal financial aid eligibility requirements and award amounts are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, log on to studentaid.ed.gov

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF BORROWING

Shop for a lender

Check out different student loan lenders. Under federal guidelines, lenders are allowed by law to charge up to a 2% origination fee for Stafford Loans. Some lenders don't charge this fee or offer a discounted fee. Many lenders also offer repayment incentives that can reduce the amount you repay. You may get a reduced interest rate for auto debit or for making payments on time.

Check out the lenders' websites to see what discounts or incentives they might offer you to save you money after graduation. You can choose any lender you want.

Some lenders also sell their loans shortly after you receive your disbursements. If the system works as it's suppose to, you shouldn't have any problems. But you may owe several lenders when your loans enter repayment.

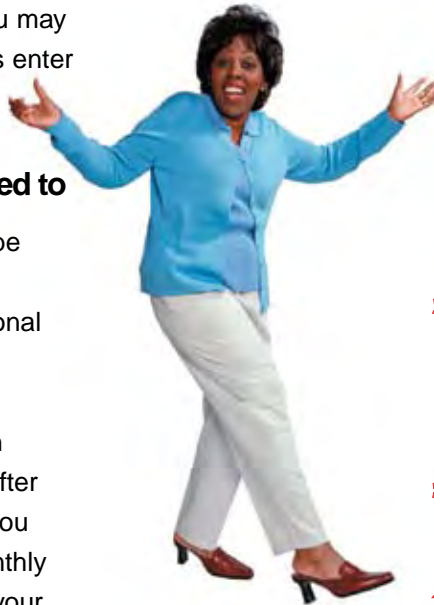
Don't borrow more than you need to

Remember that student loans must be repaid. It's important to borrow only what you need to meet your educational expenses. Keep in mind that you're borrowing against your future salary, and you should borrow reasonably in relation to what you expect to earn after graduation. It is recommended that you limit your borrowing so that your monthly payment is no more that 10-15% of your monthly gross salary. Check with the career services or placement office at your school to get an idea of what your expected salary may be based on your major or program of study and the year you'll graduate.

How to apply for a student loan

Student Stafford Loan

- 1 Fill out the FAFSA and indicate that you're interested in a student loan. Access the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov.
- 2 Check with the financial aid office at your college to see if you're eligible for a student loan.
- 3 Get a Master Promissory Note (MPN) from the school. (The school may direct you to kheaa.com to complete the MPN online.) The MPN is not a loan application but a legal, binding contract.
- 4 Specify a lender on the MPN.
- 5 Complete a student loan entrance interview (either at your school or online at kheaa.com). You have to do this before the lender can send your funds to the school.



Parent PLUS Loan

- 1 Make sure your dependent student has filled out the FAFSA.
- 2 Fill out the PLUS Loan pre-approval application at kheaa.com or get a hard copy from the school's financial aid office.
- 3 A credit check will be performed at no charge.
- 4 Specify a lender on the MPN found at kheaa.com.
- 5 Your funds are disbursed directly to the school.

START

Complete the FAFSA and return as soon as possible after January 1. Apply online at **fafsa.ed.gov**.

Complete other applications for private, state or school financial aid programs. Watch for deadlines!

Review your award letter from each school and compare the amount and types of aid that you will receive if you attend.

FINISH

For more information about federal government financial aid programs, visit ed.gov or call 800.4FEDAID

THE 10 TIPS FOR GETTING COLLEGE AID

10. Have your parents complete their tax forms early. Yours, too, if you file income taxes. You don't have to send it in right away, but you need the answers from it to file the FAFSA, the form used to apply for financial aid from most major programs.

9. Speaking of FAFSA, submit it ASAP after January 1. Complete and return the FAFSA early to have the best chance of getting the aid you qualify for. File online at fafsa.ed.gov.

8. Make good grades. Earn a 2.5 or higher GPA in high school and you can earn KEES awards from KHEAA. (See pages 21, 24 and 25 for more about KEES.)

7. Talk with a college financial aid administrator. He or she can tell you about any aid the school is handing out.

6. Find free information about financial aid. Where? Library books, KHEAA publications, your college financial aid office, kheaa.com, GoHigherKY.org and other websites or local community organizations like the YMCA and the Chamber of Commerce. Also, check out the College Info Road Show mobile interactive classroom when it visits your high school.

5. Learn about low-interest loans. After you get all the financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (like scholarships and grants), you'll probably still need a student loan. Compare the benefits. Lower fees can save you a lot of money when it's time to repay.

4. Apply yourself. Apply for EVERY type of aid you think you might be eligible for. Maybe you speak Klingon, ride a skateboard, want to become a wedding planner or made your prom dress out of duct tape. There's probably a scholarship out there to match your talents.



3. Be obsessive. Neat and complete counts when you fill out financial aid forms. Pay attention to the details.

2. Chat with your school counselor. He or she will have the financial tips that you need to help you afford college.

1. Be scam-proof. Nothing's free in life, except financial aid information. You can get all the information without paying a fee. If you think you're being scammed, call the Attorney General's office at 888.432.9257 or visit ag.ky.gov.

Financial Aid Mistakes

1. Spending money up front. All the financial aid information you need is out there free of charge. Beware of scams if a payment is required.
2. Not applying for scholarships. Money that you don't have to repay is the best type of financial aid. Apply for as many scholarships as you can.
3. Not filling out the FAFSA. The FAFSA is the most important tool in receiving financial aid. Most people qualify for some kind of aid, and you don't have to accept any of the money you are offered. But you should complete the FAFSA so you can get money if you need it.
4. Waiting until the last minute to turn in applications. Many grant programs only have a certain amount of money to give to students. If you wait too late, the money will be gone.
5. Accepting the wrong financial aid package. Not all financial aid is the same. Review what each school is giving you to make sure you know your obligations.
6. Skipping negotiations. If you don't feel your family's financial need was represented accurately, explain any special circumstances.
7. Being a bad consumer. Not all lenders offer the same rates and benefits. Be sure to shop around for a lender to make sure you're getting the lowest possible rates and the best repayment benefits. It will save you a lot of money.
8. Saving money in your name. As the student, you're required to give a larger percentage of your assets than your parents. Try to have as little money as possible saved in your name before applying for financial aid.
9. Spending the wrong money. Taking money out of a retirement account or paying for higher education with a credit card can put you in to financial trouble. Federal aid programs offer better interest rates and better repayment options than credit cards.
10. Forgetting to include other expenses. Tuition isn't the only thing you'll be paying for when you go to college. You'll also need money for membership dues, food away from the dining hall, a computer and transportation. In some cases you can use your leftover award money to pay for living expenses.

GET IN THE FAST LANE WITH **GoHigherKY.org**

As a Kentucky student, you have a lot of information at your fingertips to help you plan and pay for college or technical school. This section will help you discover free online resources to help you on the way to college.



You can compare Kentucky campuses directly with GoHigherKY.org, a website that helps students explore the state's colleges, universities and technical schools. GoHigherKY.org lets you pick your preferences in enrollment size, student-to-faculty ratio, costs and other criteria to get the best fit for you. You can access GoHigherKY.org directly or through KHEAA's website, kheaa.com.

plan for college

You can plan your high school education to meet the entrance requirements of the colleges and universities in Kentucky.

select a school

Search through colleges and universities in Kentucky to find the one that best suits you.

apps & transcripts

You can apply for admissions to Kentucky colleges and even attach your transcript to your application.

paying for college

Financial aid is the money you receive from a variety of sources to cover the cost of your education. The good news is that, regardless of income, most people are eligible for some form of financial aid. Get detailed information on scholarships, grants and loans. You can also transfer your *myGoHigher* information directly to FAFSA online.

my GoHigher

Creating an account is simple, fast and free! Your *myGoHigher* account is a personalized portfolio that stores your high school grades, college preferences and contact information.

career center

The Career Center helps you identify and prepare for a career that suits your interests, skills and abilities. In this section, you can become acquainted with a variety of careers and acquire tips on choosing your career path. You can even view informational video clips on a variety of career fields.

adult ed & e-learning

Are you thinking about returning to college or enrolling for the first time? Millions of adults who delayed college are now enrolling. Find out what you need to know in one convenient easy stop.

If you are interested in taking college courses online, or if you'd like to find out more about professional development opportunities available through the Web, this section of GoHigherKY.org can help you explore your options.

transfer planning

Once you've completed your degree, why not keep going? In Kentucky there are tools to help you transfer your coursework more easily to a bachelor's degree program and they can be found through the transfer planning section of GoHigherKY.org.

Be on the lookout for the College Info Road Show

KHEAA has a mobile outreach service center, the College Info Road Show, that could be coming to your school or community. Outreach staff are on board and can help you access GoHigherKY.org from the mobile classroom's laptop computers. Staff can also provide career information, identify colleges or universities that meet educational goals, help find sources of financial aid, answer questions and much more!



WHERE TO GO FOR MORE FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION



For the latest information on your KEES award and more financial aid information, visit **kheaa.com**.

At **kheaa.com** you'll find:

- Your application status and account history for KEES awards and your KHEAA grants and student loans
- The College Aid Calculator, which will give you an idea of how much aid you'll get for college
- The most current information on KHEAA financial aid
- Links to other higher education and financial aid websites
- Useful college reference books, such as *Getting In* and *Affording Higher Education*

To check your KEES account go to **www.kheaa.com** and



select "Register Now." Once you have answered a few simple questions, you will be able to "Zip Access" all of your KEES awards information.

Many other websites offer free information:

- collegeboard.com** – The College Board
- ed.gov** – U.S. Department of Education
- fafsa.ed.gov** – FAFSA on the Web
- kysaves.com** – Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust (KESPT)
- kyvu.org** – Kentucky Virtual Campus
- mapping-your-future.org** – Mapping Your Future
- pin.ed.gov** – FAFSA Personal Identification Number
- studentaid.ed.gov** – Federal student aid programs

Check this out:

College doesn't just happen; you have to work to make it a reality. There are specific steps you need to take, and KnowHow2GoKy.org can help you along the way.



NOTES



Our mission

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) is a state government agency established by the General Assembly to improve access to higher education.

Our mission is to provide resources to make higher education accessible to Kentucky's current and future generations.

***See you on the
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